



ICC INTERNATIONAL MARITIME BUREAU

**PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY
AGAINST SHIPS**

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD

1 January – 31 March 2018

WARNING

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April 2018

INTRODUCTION

The ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB) is a specialised division of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The IMB is a non-profit making organisation, established in 1981 to act as a focal point in the fight against all types of maritime crime and malpractice. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) in its resolution A 504 (XII) (5) and (9) adopted on 20 November 1981, has *inter alia*, urged governments, all interests and organization to co-operate and exchange information with each other and the IMB with a view to maintaining and developing a coordinated action in combating maritime fraud.

This report is an analysis of world-wide reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships from 1 January to 31 March 2018.

Outrage in the shipping industry at the alarming growth in piracy prompted the creation of the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) in October 1992 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The key services of the PRC are:

- Issuing daily status reports on piracy and armed robbery to ships via broadcasts on the Inmarsat-C SafetyNET service
- Reporting piracy and armed robbery at sea incidents to law enforcement and the IMO
- Helping local law enforcement apprehend pirates and assist in bringing them to justice
- Assisting shipowners whose vessels have been attacked or hijacked
- Assisting crewmembers whose vessels have been attacked
- Providing updates on pirate activity via the Internet
- Publishing comprehensive quarterly and annual reports detailing piracy statistics

The services of the PRC are provided free of charge to all ships irrespective of their ownership or flag.

The IMB also locates ships seized by pirates and recovers stolen cargoes on a chargeable basis.

The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre can be contacted at:

ICC International Maritime Bureau (Asia Regional Office)

PO Box 12559, 50782 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel ++ 60 3 2078 5763

Fax ++ 60 3 2078 5769

E-mail: imbkl@icc-ccs.org

24 Hours Anti-Piracy HELPLINE Tel: ++ 60 3 2031 0014

Piracy report on the Internet: The IMB posts updates of attacks on the Internet at www.icc-ccs.org. By posting the information on the internet, ship owners and authorities ashore as well as ships at sea can access these updates regularly and make informed decisions on the risks associated with certain sea areas.

Sometimes, incidents occurring in the previous quarter(s) are reported to the Centre after a time lag. This late reporting of incidents results in changes to the figures in the tables. The Centre has, as of 31 March 2018, received reports of 66 incidents but may receive details of more in the coming months relating to the same period.

Because of the continued debate concerning Malacca Straits, narrations of incidents in this area are shown as separate categories. Similarly, because of the historical issues off Somalia, incidents in this area are also shown as separate categories.

Attacks in the Gulf of Aden and off the east coast of Somalia have been grouped together in the narrations for easy reading.

DEFINITIONS OF PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY

Piracy is defined in Article 101 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and Armed Robbery defined by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in its 26th Assembly session as Resolution A.1025 (26).

Article 101 of UNCLOS defines Piracy as:

Definition of Piracy consists of any of the following acts:

- a) any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed-*
 - (i) on the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft;*
 - (ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;*

- (b) any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;*

- (c) any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in subparagraph (a) or (b).*

The IMO defines Armed Robbery in Resolution A.1025 (26) “Code of Practice for the Investigation of Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships” as:

Armed robbery against ships” means any of the following acts:

- 1. any illegal act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of piracy, committed for private ends and directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such a ship, within a State’s internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea;*

- 2. any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described above*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FUNDING

The Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC), funded purely on donations, wishes to thank the following organisations that have financially contributed towards the Centre's 24-hour manned service:

- ANIA
- Assuranceforeningen Skuld
- Britannia Steam Ship Insurance Association Limited
- CLS Argos
- Gard AS
- Japan P&I Club
- Justships Ltd
- Merchant Shipping Cyprus
- Standard Steam Ship Mutual P&I Association
- Steam Ship Insurance Management Services Limited
- The North of England P&I Association Ltd

The PRC is additionally non-financially supported by:

- ExactEarth (www.exactearth.com)
- Vesseltracker (www.vesseltracker.com)

**TABLE 1: Locations of ACTUAL and ATTEMPTED attacks
January - March 2014 – 2018**

Locations	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
S E ASIA Indonesia	18	21	4	7	9
Malacca Straits		1			
Malaysia		3		1	1
Philippines		2	2	9	2
Singapore Straits	5	2		1	
Thailand		1			
EAST ASIA China			1	1	2
Vietnam		8	2		2
INDIAN SUB Bangladesh	4	1		4	4
CONTINENT India	2	2	10	1	2
AMERICAS Brazil					1
Colombia		1		2	
Ecuador				1	1
Guyana			1		
Haiti					3
Peru			2	1	2
Venezuela			1	2	5
AFRICA Angola	1				
Benin					5
Cameroon	1				1
Dem. Rep. of Congo			2		
Gabon	1				
Ghana		2			1
Guinea					1
Gulf of Aden*	2				1
Ivory Coast		1	1		
Kenya			1		
Liberia	1				
Mozambique				1	
Nigeria	6	7	10	7	22
Red Sea*	1				
Sierra Leone				2	
Somalia	2			2	1
Tanzania	1				
The Congo	3	1		1	
REST OF WORLD Oman	1				
Papua New Guinea		1			
Sub total	49	54	37	43	66
Total at year end	245	246	191	179	

All incidents with * above are attributed to Somali pirates

CHART A: The following five locations recorded 68% attacks from a total of 66 incidents reported for the period.

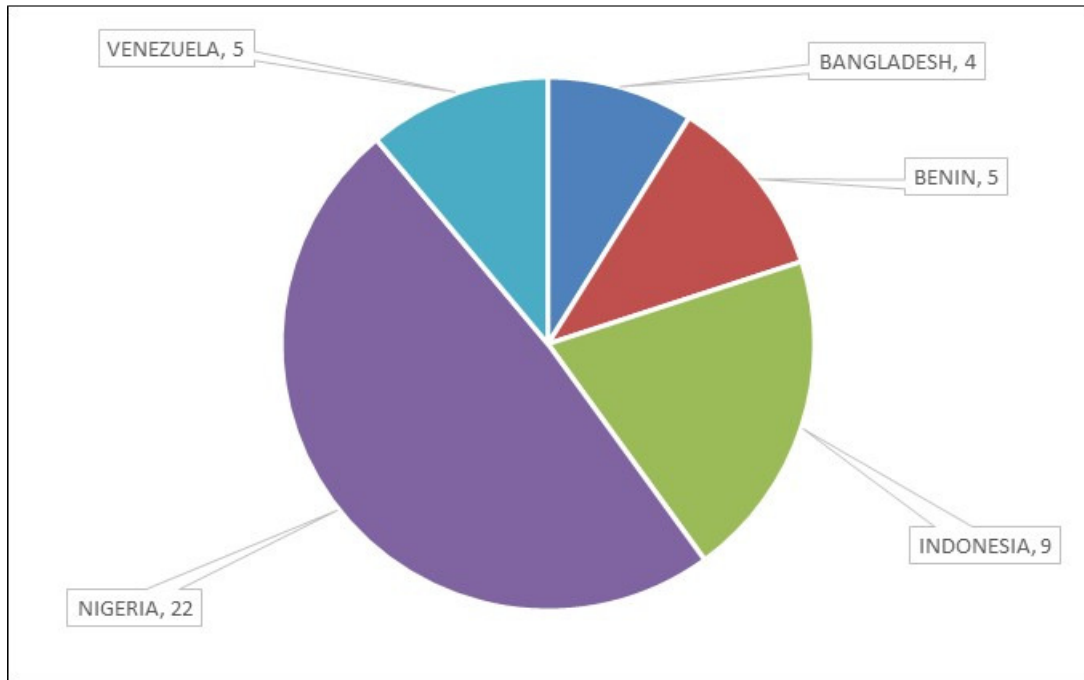


CHART B: Monthly comparison of incidents during January – March 2018

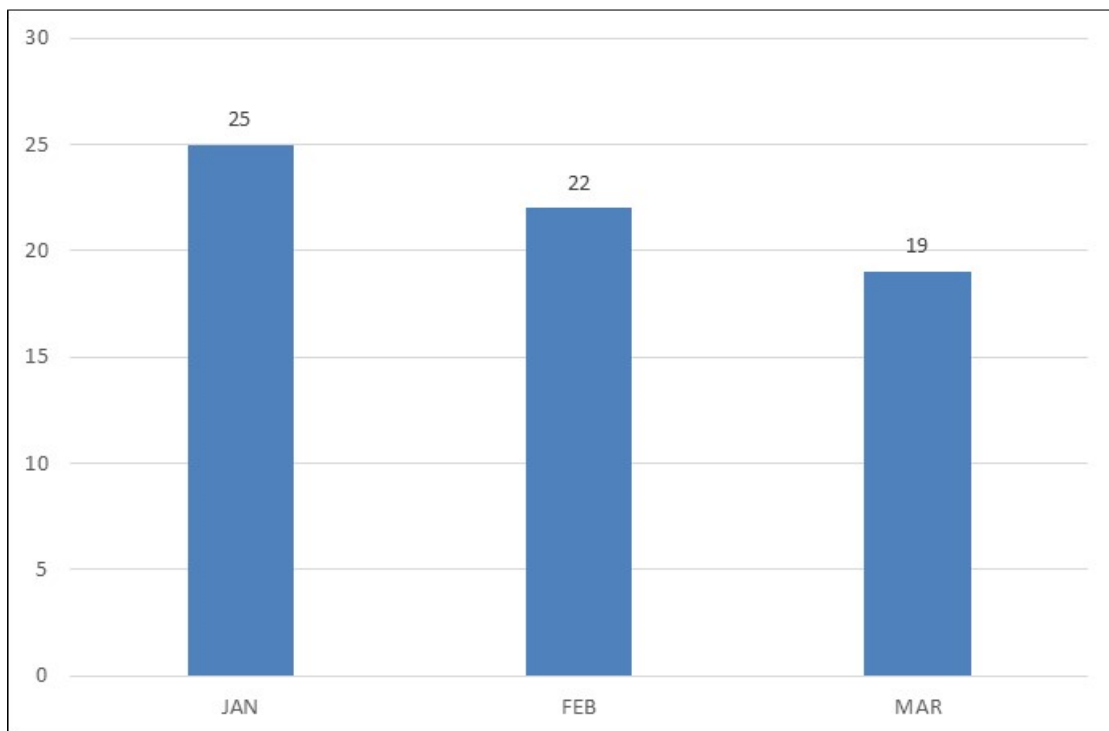


CHART C: Total incidents as per regions of the world January – March 2018

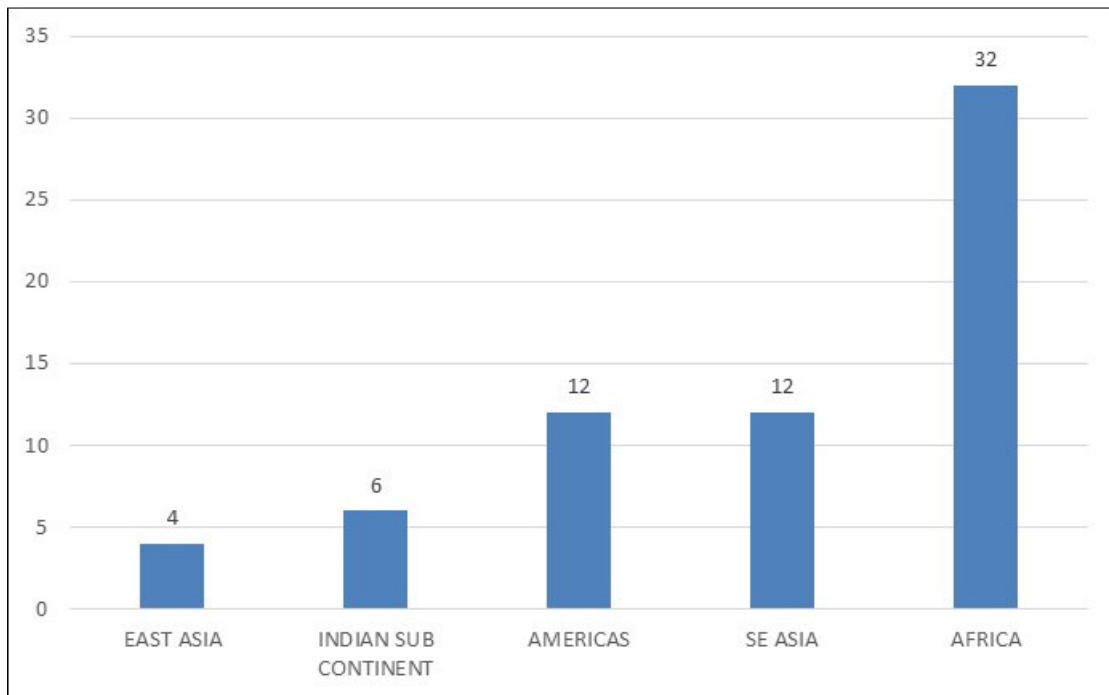


TABLE 2: ACTUAL and ATTEMPTED attacks by location, January – March 2018

Location	Actual attacks		Attempted attacks	
	Boarded	Hijacked	Attempted	Fired Upon
SE ASIA				
Indonesia	7		2	
Malaysia			1	
Philippines	1			1
EAST ASIA				
China			2	
Vietnam	2			
INDIAN SUB CONTINENT				
Bangladesh	3		1	
India	1		1	
AMERICAS				
Brazil	1			
Ecuador	1			
Haiti	3			
Peru	2			
Venezuela	4		1	
AFRICA				
Benin	3	2		
Cameroon	1			
Ghana		1		
Guinea			1	
Gulf of Aden				1
Nigeria	10	1	3	8
Somalia				1
Sub total	39	4	12	11
Total	66			

TABLE 3: Ports / anchorages, with three or more reported incidents, January – March 2018

Country	Location	01.01.2018 to 31.03.2018
Bangladesh	Chittagong / Kutubdia	4
Benin	Cotonou	5
Haiti	Port Au Prince	3
Indonesia	Muara Berau	5
Nigeria	Lagos	8
Venezuela	Puerto La Cruz	3

TABLE 4: Status of ships during ACTUAL attacks, January – March 2018

Location	Anchored	Berthed	Steaming	Not Stated
SE ASIA Indonesia	7			
Philippines	1			
EAST ASIA Vietnam	2			
INDIAN SUB Bangladesh	3			
CONTINENT India			1	
AMERICAS Brazil	1			
Ecuador	1			
Haiti	3			
Peru	2			
Venezuela	4			
AFRICA Benin	5			
Cameroon				1
Ghana			1	
Nigeria	7	1	3	
Sub total	36	1	5	1
Total	43			

TABLE 5: Status of ships during ATTEMPTED attacks, January – March 2018

Location	Anchored	Berthed	Steaming
SE ASIA Indonesia	2		
Malaysia			1
Philippines			1
EAST ASIA China	2		
INDIAN SUB Bangladesh	1		
CONTINENT India	1		
AMERICAS Venezuela	1		
AFRICA Guinea		1	
Gulf of Aden			1
Nigeria	1		10
Somalia			1
Sub total	8	1	14
Total	23		

TABLE 6: Types of arms used during attacks, January - March 2014 – 2018

Types of Arms	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Guns	14	13	12	14	27
Knives	17	21	9	10	9
Not stated	16	17	16	18	30
Other weapons	2	3		1	
Sub total	49	54	37	43	66
Total at year end	245	246	191	179	

TABLE 7: Comparison of the type of attacks, January - March 2014 – 2018

Type of Attack	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Attempted	5	4	3	4	12
Boarded	37	42	29	33	39
Fired upon	5		2	4	11
Hijack	2	8	3	2	4
Sub total	49	54	37	43	66
Total at year end	245	246	191	179	

TABLE 8: Types of violence to crew, January – March 2014 – 2018

Types of Violence	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Hostage	46	140	28	31	100
Kidnap	2	5	26	27	14
Threatened	3	1	1	3	3
Assaulted		13	1		
Injured	1	3	2		2
Killed		1		2	
Sub total	52	163	58	63	119
Total at year end	479	333	236	191	

TABLE 9: Type of violence to crew by location, January – March 2018

Location	Hostage	Kidnap	Threatened	Injured
EAST ASIA Vietnam				1
INDIAN SUB CONTINENT Bangladesh			2	
AMERICAS Peru	1			
Venezuela			1	
AFRICA Benin	46	2		
Cameroon		3		
Ghana	44	3		
Nigeria	9	6		1
Sub total	100	14	3	2
Total	119			

TABLE 11: Types of arms used by geographical location, January – March 2018

Locations		Guns	Knives	Not Stated
S E ASIA	Indonesia		1	8
	Malaysia			1
	Philippines	1		1
EAST ASIA	China			2
	Vietnam		1	1
INDIAN SUB	Bangladesh	1	2	1
CONTINENT	India			2
AMERICAS	Brazil			1
	Ecuador	1		
	Haiti	1		2
	Peru		2	
	Venezuela	1	3	1
AFRICA	Benin	5		
	Cameroon	1		
	Ghana	1		
	Guinea			1
	Gulf of Aden	1		
	Nigeria	13		9
	Somalia	1		
Sub total		27	9	30
Total			66	

TABLE 12 Types of vessels attacked, January – March 2014 – 2018

Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bulk carrier	9	22	9	9	21
Container	5	4	1	3	5
Dhow				1	
General cargo	7	1	2	4	3
Hopper Dredger		1			
FPSO		1			
Offshore Support vessel			1	1	
Passenger boat		1			
Pipe Layer vessel		1			
Refrigerated		2			3
RORO	2				
Supply ship	2	1		3	
Tanker Asphalt / Bitumen				1	2
Tanker Bunkering		1		1	
Tanker Chem / Product	13	9	15	12	20
Tanker Crude Oil	7	2	1	1	7
Tanker LNG			1	1	
Tanker LPG	2	1	1	3	
Trawler / Fishing Vessel		1		1	3

Tug / Offshore Tug	2	4	4	2	2
Vehicle carrier		1	2		
Wood Chips carrier		1			
Sub total	49	54	37	43	66
Total at year end	245	246	191	179	

CHART D: Type of vessels attacked January – March 2018

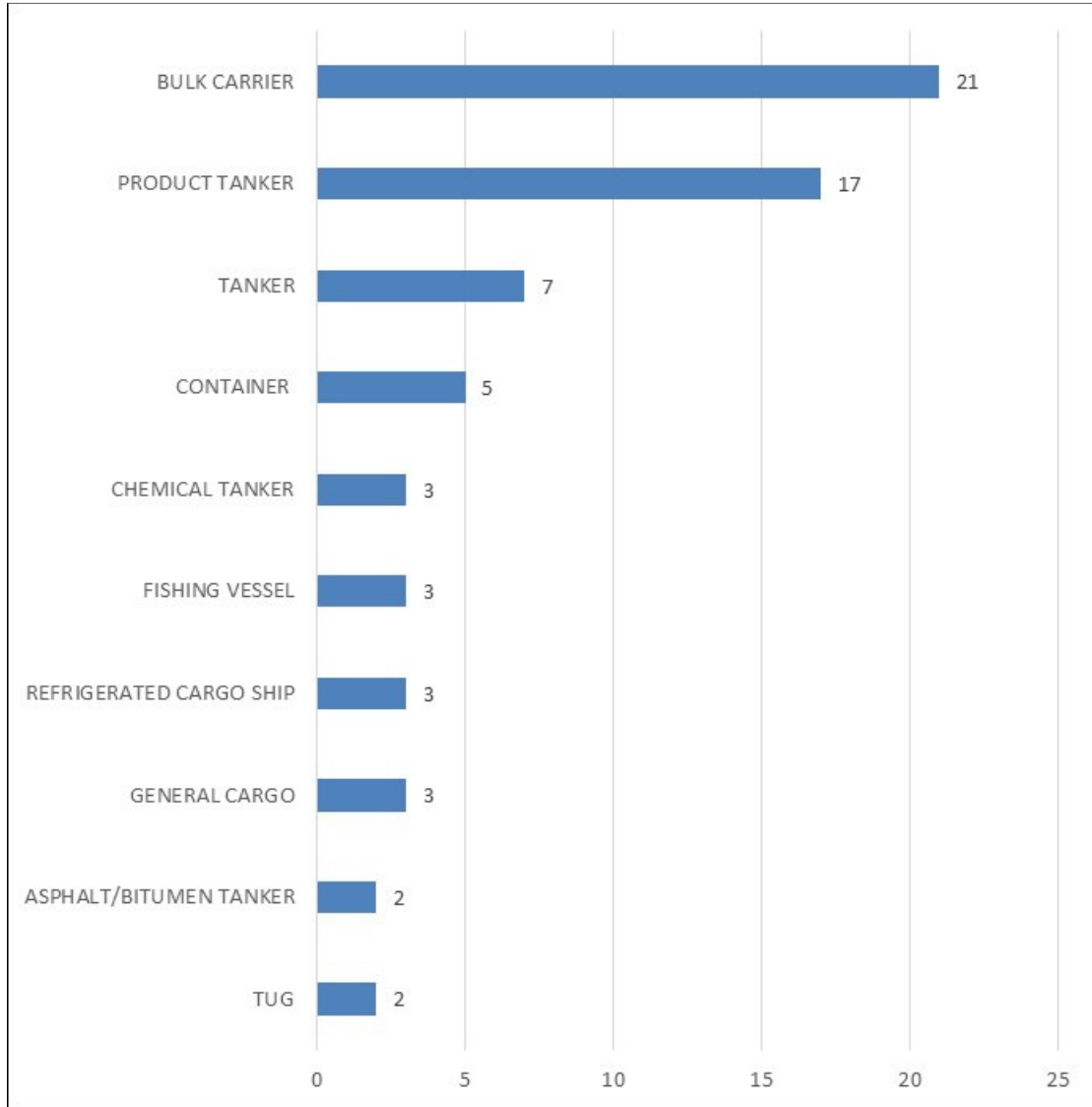


TABLE 13: Nationalities of ships attacked, January - March 2014 – 2018

Flag State	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Antigua and Barbuda	2	1		1	1
Bahamas	1	1		1	3
Barbados					1
Belgium		1			
Belize		1			
Chile					1
China					2
Cook Islands		1			1
Croatia			1		
Curacao		1			
Cyprus					2
Denmark	1		1		
Ethiopia			1		
Ghana		1			1
Gibraltar	1				
Greece		2			
Hong Kong (SAR)	2	3	1	3	4
India			1		
Indonesia		1	1	1	
Isle of Man	1	1			
Italy	2				
Liberia	7	4	4	4	11
Luxemburg		1			1
Malaysia	1	3		1	
Malta	1	2	1	5	3
Marshall Islands	8	8	10	7	14
Netherlands	2				
Nigeria	1	1	2		1
Norway	2		1	3	1
Panama	6	11	5	6	11
Papua New Guinea		1			
Philippines				2	1
Saudi Arabia	1				
Sierra Leone	1				
Singapore	6	6	7	3	7
Spain				1	
Sri Lanka				1	
Thailand		2			
United Kingdom			1		
USA	1				
Vanuatu		1			
Vietnam	1			3	
Not Stated	1			1	
Sub total	49	54	37	43	66

Total at year end	245	246	191	179	
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CHART E: Flag States whose ships have been attacked three or more times from January – March 2018

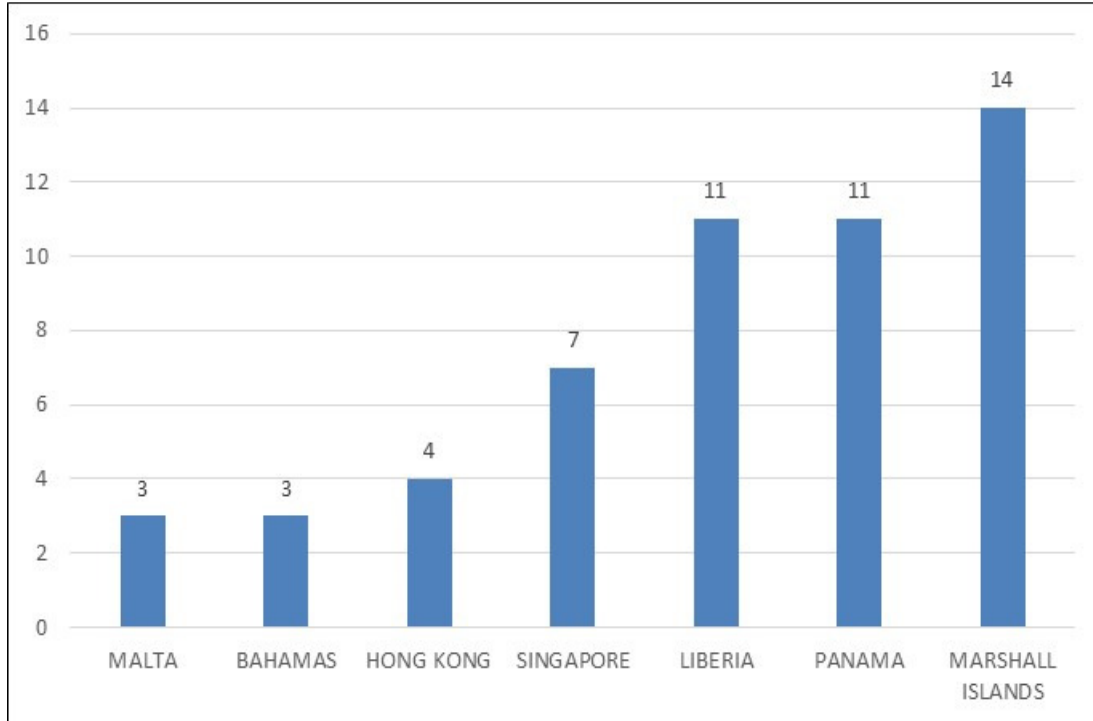
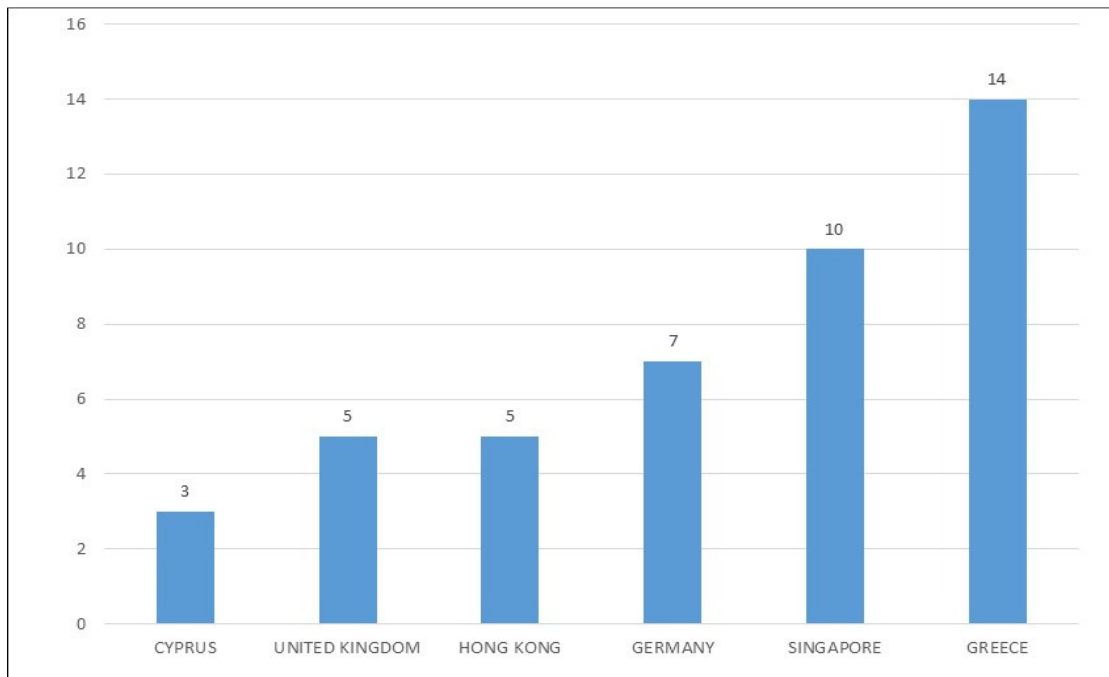


TABLE 14: Countries where victim ships controlled / managed, January – March 2018

Country	No of Ships
Belgium	2
Chile	1
Croatia	1
Cyprus	3
France	1
Germany	7
Ghana	1
Greece	14
Hong Kong	5
India	1
Iran	1
Italy	1
Japan	2
Lithuania	1
Monaco	1
Netherlands	1
Nigeria	1
Norway	1
Philippines	1

Portugal	1
Singapore	10
Thailand	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	5
Not Stated	2
Total	66

Chart F: Managing countries whose ships have been attacked three or more times from January – March 2018



OFF SOMALIA / GULF OF ADEN / RED SEA ATTACK FIGURES UPDATE

From 1 January to 31 March 2018, the IMB PRC has received two attempted incidents off Somalia and Gulf of Aden.

The international navies patrolling these waters continue to coordinate and liaise with merchant and fishing fleets to identify and apprehend pirate action groups.

All vessels are advised and encouraged to adhere to the BMP4 recommendations while transiting these waters. Vessels employing Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) should be cautious and not mistake fishermen for pirates in some heavy fishing areas.

As the IMB PRC continues to monitor the situation in the region, it cautions ship owners and Masters against complacency. Somali pirates still have the capability and capacity to carry out attacks.

The IMB PRC supports and compliments the role of the international navies, by relaying all reports received, to the response agencies as well as by broadcasting alerts to ships via the INMARSAT Safety Net Service

PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY PRONE AREAS AND WARNINGS

Mariners are warned to be extra cautious and to take necessary precautionary measures when transiting the following areas:

SOUTH EAST ASIA AND INDIAN SUB CONTINENT

Bangladesh: Robbers continue to target ships at anchor. Most attacks reported at Chittagong anchorages and approaches. Attacks in Bangladesh have however fallen significantly over the past few years because of the efforts by the Bangladesh Authorities.

Indonesia: Tanjung Priok – Jakarta, Dumai / Lubuk Gaung, Batu Ampar / Batam, Cilacap, Bintan Island, and Muara Berau anchorage and surrounding waters. Pirates / robbers are normally armed with guns / knives / machetes. Generally, be vigilant in other areas. Many attacks may have gone unreported. Pirates / robbers normally attack vessel during the night. When spotted and alarm sounded, they usually escape without confronting the crew.

Recent meetings and continued dialog between the Indonesian Marine Police (IMP) and the IMB PRC has resulted in positive actions by the Indonesian Authorities. The IMP has advised all ships intending to anchor to do so at / near the following areas where IMP boats will conduct patrols for greater protection.

1. Belawan: 03:55.00N-098:45.30E
2. Dumai: 01:42.00N-101:28.00E
3. Nipah: 01:07.30N-103:37.00E
4. Tanjung Berakit/Bintan: 01:23.30N - 104:42.30E
5. Tanjung Priok: 06:00.30S-106:54.00E
6. Gresik: 07:09.00S-112:40.00E
7. Taboneo: 03:41.30S-114:28.00E
8. Adang bay: 01:40.00S-116:40.00E
9. Muara Berau: 00:17.00S-117:36.00E
10. Balikpapan: 01:22.00S-116:53.00E

In accordance with the Road Map Program Police Reforms Wave III, the Indonesian Authorities have officially advised the IMB that prevention action of sea robbery / piracy in the above ten locations, within Indonesian waters, will continue until 2019.

Malacca Straits: Although the number of attacks have dropped substantially (2016 and 2017 recorded zero attacks) due to the increase and aggressive patrols by the littoral states authorities since July 2005, ships are advised to continue maintaining strict anti-piracy / robbery watches when transiting the Straits. Currently, there are no indications as to how long these patrols will continue or reduce. In some cases, attacks may have gone unreported.

Malaysia: Off Eastern Sabah – Militant activities has resulted in several tugs / barges / fishing boats / ships being attacked and crews kidnapped. These kidnappings by militants have recently stopped due to the ongoing efforts of the Philippines military to curb militant activity in Mindanao. Vessels transiting these waters should refer to the Sabah Notice to Mariners NTM 14 of 2017 on the Ship Reporting System. Vessels are also urged to monitor the IMB PRC Warnings on potential attacks and locations issued by the Philippines Intelligence.

Philippines: Pirates / militants in the southern Philippines attacking vessels in / off Sibutu passage / off Sibutu island / Tawi Tawi / Sulu sea / Celebes sea / off eastern Sabah. They have attacked tugs / barges / fishing vessels / yachts / merchant ships to rob and kidnap crews for ransom. These kidnappings by militants have recently stopped due to the ongoing efforts of the Philippines military to curb militant activity in Mindanao. Vessels transiting these waters should refer to the Sabah Notice to Mariners NTM 14 of 2017 on the Ship Reporting System.

Vessels are also urged to monitor the IMB PRC Warnings on potential attacks and locations issued by the Philippines Intelligence.

Batangas and Manila –Attacks / robberies continue to be recorded. Be vigilant.

Singapore Straits: Vessels are advised to remain vigilant and maintain adequate anti-piracy / robbery watch and measures. Pirates / robbers attack ships while underway or while at anchor especially during the night.

South China Sea: Although attacks have dropped significantly in the vicinity off Tioman / off Pulau Aur / off Anambas / Natuna / Mangkai islands / Subi Besar / Merunding areas, vessels are advised to continue to remain vigilant especially during the night. In the past, a number of hijackings of small product tankers have occurred off the coast of Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and in the South China Sea area. This trend started in April 2014 but the hijackings had stopped abruptly in late 2015. The IMB is monitoring the situation. It has been reported that some criminals have been arrested by local authorities both in Malaysia and in Indonesia. There were three incidents reported in 2017 where two tankers were hijacked off Kuantan / off Pulau Aur / East coast Malaysia.

It is recommended to maintain and implement strict anti-piracy watches and measures while transiting the above areas of concern. Ships are encouraged to report all attacks (actual and attempted) and suspicious sightings to the local authorities and the IMB PRC, who will also liaise with the local authorities to render necessary assistance.

AFRICA AND RED SEA

Africa: -

Benin (Cotonou): Attacks in Benin anchorage have resurfaced after several years. Five vessels were boarded while at Benin anchorage. After the attack some ships were forced to sail out of Benin anchorage and released a few days later. Past attacks showed that the pirates / robbers in this area are well armed and are violent. In some incidents vessels have been fired upon. The ships are sailed to unknown locations where ship's properties and sometimes part cargo is stolen (gas oil). Crewmembers have been injured in the past.

Guinea: Conakry

Ivory Coast: Abidjan: Attacks have reduced but the area remains risky.

Nigeria (Lagos): Pirates / robbers are often well armed, violent and have attacked, hijacked and robbed vessels / kidnapped crews along the coast, rivers, anchorages, ports and surrounding waters. In the past, attacks have been reported up to 170nm from the coast. In many past incidents, pirates hijacked the vessels for several days and ransacked the vessels and stole part cargo usually gas oil. Several crewmembers were also injured and kidnapped in past attacks. Generally, all waters in / off Nigeria remain risky. Vessels are advised to be vigilant, as many attacks may have gone unreported.

(Off Bayelsa / Brass / Bonny Island / Port Harcourt): Recently, there has been a dramatic increase in attacks / hijackings / kidnapping of crews off these areas. Vessels are advised to take additional measures in these high-risk waters.

Togo (Lome): Attacks have dropped to zero attacks for 2017 but the area remains a concern and risky. Pirates / robbers in the area are well armed, violent and dangerous. Attacks can occur at anchorages and off the coast and usually at night. Some past attacks resulted in vessels being hijacked for several days and ransacked and part cargo stolen (gas oil).

Red Sea / Gulf of Aden / Somalia / Arabian Sea / Indian Ocean: A total of nine vessels have been attacked including three vessels hijacked off Somalia in 2017. Somali pirates continue to possess the capability and capacity to carry out attacks. It appears that they may now be seeking the opportunity as well. Two vessels have reported being fired upon in 2018. All merchant ships are advised to adhere to the BMP4 recommendations while transiting these waters. The IMB PRC will continue to alert and broadcast information to all ships in the region via Inmarsat EGC Safety Net.

The threat of these attacks still exists in the waters off southern Red Sea / Bab el Mandeb, Gulf of Aden including Yemen and the northern Somali coast, Arabian Sea / off Oman, Gulf of Oman and off the eastern and southern Somali coast. In the past vessels have been attacked off Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mozambique as well as in the Indian Ocean and off the west and south coasts of India and west Maldives.

Somali pirates tend to be well armed with automatic weapons and RPGs and sometimes use skiffs launched from mother vessels, which may be hijacked fishing vessels or dhows, to conduct attacks far from the Somali coast. Masters and ship owners are encouraged to register and report their vessels as per the BMP4 procedures and ensure that their vessel is hardened prior to entering the high-risk area. While transiting through these waters it is essential to maintain a 24-hour visual and radar watch. Early sightings / detection enables an accurate assessment, keeping in mind the warnings and alerts for the area, allowing the Masters and PCASP to make informed decisions to keep clear of small boats, dhows, fishing vessels and if necessary take evasive actions and request assistance as needed.

Masters are reminded that fishermen in this region may try to protect their nets by attempting to aggressively approach merchant vessels. Some of the fishermen may be armed to protect their catch and they should not be confused with pirates.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WATERS

Ecuador: Guayaquil. Attacks dropped but ships are advised to be vigilant.

Peru: Callao

Venezuela: Puerto Cruz / Puerto Jose. Attacks are increasing.

Reporting of incidents

Ships are advised to maintain strict anti-piracy watches and report all piratical attacks (actual and attempted) and suspicious sightings to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tel: +60 3 2078 5763 Fax: +60 3 2078 5769 E-mail: imbkl@icc-ccs.org

The Centre's 24 Hours Anti-Piracy HELPLINE is: +60 3 2031 0014

IMB Maritime Security Hotline

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has also launched a dedicated hotline for seafarers, port workers, shipping agents, shipyard personnel, brokers, stevedores, and all concerned parties to report any information that they may have seen / heard / known etc. relating to maritime crime and security including terrorism, piracy and other illegal activities.

All information received will be treated in strict confidence and will be passed on to relevant Authorities for further action. Maritime crime and security concerns us all and with your help, we can try to minimize the risks and help save lives and property.

The Maritime Security Hotline can be contacted 24 hours every day at:

Tel: +60 3 2031 0014 Fax: +60 3 2078 5769 E-mail: imbsecurity@icc-ccs.org

REMEMBER: Your information may save lives. All information will be treated in strict confidence.

OBSERVATIONS

Narrations of the 66 attacks for 01 January to 31 March 2018 are listed on pages 26 to 37. The following serious incidents, in chronological sequence are described in more detail.

Benin:

On 10 January 2018, a Marshall Islands flagged Product Tanker MT Barrett was attacked and hijacked by armed persons while anchored at Cotonou Anchorage, Benin. The owners lost communications with their tanker and notified the IMB PRC who informed and liaised with both Benin and Nigerian Authorities. Other regional Authorities were also notified. A search was carried out and on 16 January 2018, owners reported that the tanker and her 24 crew arrived safely in Lagos, Nigeria after successful negotiations with the hijackers.

On 01 February 2018, a Panamanian flagged Product Tanker MT Marine Express was attacked and hijacked by 13 armed persons while anchored at position Latitude 06:16 North and Longitude 002:31 East, Cotonou Anchorage, Benin at approximately 0748 UTC. The IMB PRC received a missing vessel report from owners who advised that they had lost contact with their tanker laden with gasoline. The IMB PRC immediately notified and liaised with local and regional Authorities including international warships in the Gulf of Guinea and a search was carried out. The IMB PRC broadcast a missing vessel message to all ships in the region to lookout for the missing tanker. On 06 February 2018, the Owners confirmed that the tanker was released. During the time of hijack, crews were beaten and personal belongings and cash were stolen.

On 26 February 2018, a Luxembourg flagged Product Tanker MT ST Marseille was attacked by five armed persons while anchored at position Latitude 06:16.31 North and Longitude 002:29.24 East, Cotonou Anchorage, Benin at approximately 2330 UTC. While boarding the tanker, the armed persons commenced firing and injured one Benin naval guard. All crew except the D/O retreated into the citadel. As the armed persons made their way to the bridge, they continued firing their weapons and injured another naval guard. They took the D/O hostage and demanded the Master, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer emerge from the citadel and come to the bridge. The armed persons instructed the Master to heave up the anchor. When they were told that the tanker was in ballast, they stole crew properties, and kidnapped the Master and one Engineer and left the tanker in the tanker's rescue boat. The Benin Navy was notified to medivac the injured guards. Once the armed persons, in the rescue boat, were safely ashore, they released the Master and Engineer who were able to make contact with the local police and later re-joined the tanker.

Cameroon:

On 09 February 2018, a Chinese flagged Fishing Vessel Luwen-Yu 2 was attacked and boarded by armed persons at position Latitude 04:06 North and Longitude 008:51 East, around 10nm SW of Idenao, Cameroon at approximately 1245 UTC. They kidnapped three crew members and escaped. The Cameroon Authorities notified.

Ghana:

On 26 March 2018, a Ghanaian flagged Fishing Vessel was attacked and hijacked by armed pirates at position Latitude 05:20.0 North and Longitude 000:51.4 East, around 27nm south of Anloga, Ghana. The owners of the fishing vessel reported the incident to the IMB PRC who immediately contacted and liaised with the Ghana Navy Ops Centre. As the fishing vessel moved from Ghanaian waters into Togo and Benin waters the PRC continually updated the respective neighbouring and regional naval authorities. Naval boats were deployed by the respective navies within their waters to look for the fishing vessel. On 28 March 2018, the owners confirmed that the fishing vessel had been released. Three crew members were reported kidnapped. All navies were informed accordingly.

Nigeria:

On 09 February 2018, a Bahamas flagged Refrigerated Cargo Ship was attacked, fired upon and boarded by eight armed pirates while underway at position Latitude 03:40 North and Longitude 006:45 East, around 48nm SSW of Bonny Island, Nigeria at approximately 0600 UTC. One crew was injured due to the firing. The pirates stole ship's properties, cash and kidnapped four crew members prior to escaping. The remaining crew sailed the ship to open seas.

On 22 March 2018, a Chinese flagged Fishing Vessel FV Luronyuanyu 216 was attacked and hijacked by armed pirates while anchored at position Latitude 06:01.0 North and Longitude 003:12.0 East, around 30nm SSE of Badagry, Nigeria at approximately 1000 UTC. The pirates forced the crew into Benin waters where they kidnapped two crew members before releasing the fishing boat.

Philippines:

On 16 February 2018, a Philippines flagged General Cargo Ship MV Kudos 1 was attacked by armed persons while underway at position Latitude 06:44.21 North and Longitude 122:23.50 East, off Sibago Island, Philippines during night hours. Alarm raised and distress signal activated. The Philippines Coast Guard (PCG) immediately responded by dispatching its patrol boats. As the armed persons attempted to board the ship, the crew poured hot water on the perpetrators who fired upon the ship, injuring one crew before aborting the attack. The PCG boarding team provided medical assistance to the injured crew.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The IMB appreciates the assistance and vital cooperation provided by the Coalition naval forces / EU naval force (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA) / MSCHOA / US Navy / French Alindien / NATO / UKMTO / Indian Navy / Iranian Navy / Malaysian Navy / Russian Navy / Chinese Navy / South Korean Navy / Japanese Maritime SDF/ Singapore Navy/ Royal Thai Navy / and Yemeni Coast Guard and Navy for assisting the many vessels that have been attacked recently and in the past by suspected Somali pirates both in the Gulf of Aden and off eastern / southern Somali coast, Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and other areas. The positive actions by the Navies including pre-emptive and disruptive counter piracy tactics had resulted in the drop in the number of attacks.

TRENDS

Sixty-six incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships were reported to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) in the first three months of 2018. The number is up noticeably from the 43 incidents recorded in Q1 2017 and 37 in Q1 2016.

The Q1 2018 figures are broken down as 39 vessels boarded, 12 attempted attacks, 11 vessels fired upon and four vessels hijacked. A hundred crew were taken hostage and 14 kidnapped from their vessels.

As a region, the Gulf of Guinea accounts for 29 of the 2018 Q1 incidents and all four of the vessel hijackings. With the exception of one crew member, all crew kidnappings and hostages taken occurred in the Gulf of Guinea. As a country, Nigeria recorded 22 incidents. Of the 11 vessels fired upon, eight occurred off Nigeria – including a report from a 300,000 MT deadweight VLCC tanker more than 40 nm off Brass.

Two anchored product tankers were hijacked at Cotonou anchorage in mid-January and early February, prompting the IMB PRC to issue a warning to ships of heightened activity. Towards the end of March, two fishing vessels were hijacked 30nm off Nigeria and 27nm off Ghana respectively. No vessels were reported hijacked in the Gulf of Guinea for the whole of 2017.

The authorities from Benin, Nigeria and Togo have sent out boats in response to several incidents.

One incident was reported off Somalia where a product tanker was fired upon and chased by two skiffs around 160nm SE of Hobyo. At the end of March, a 160,000 DWT tanker reported being fired upon in the Gulf of Aden, while transiting within the Maritime Security Transit Corridor (MSTC). The distance from land, sighting of ladders and firing upon ships continues to illustrate that the Somali pirates retain the capability and intent to attack merchant shipping in the wider Indian Ocean.

Indonesia recorded nine low level attacks where anchored vessels were targeted. Five bulk carriers reported actual or attempted attacks at Muara Berau anchorage in Samarinda, whilst waiting to load coal cargoes.

Since 1991 the IMB PRC's 24-hour manned center, has provided the maritime industry, governments and response agencies with timely and transparent data on piracy and armed robbery incidents – received directly from the Master of the vessel or its owners. The IMB PRC's prompt forwarding of reports and liaison with response agencies, its broadcasts to shipping via Inmarsat Safety Net Services and email alerts to CSOs, all provided free of cost, has helped the response against piracy and armed robbery and the security of seafarers, globally. IMB strongly urges all shipmasters and owners to report all actual, attempted and suspected piracy and armed robbery incidents to the IMB PRC. This first step in the response chain is vital to ensuring that adequate resources are allocated by authorities to tackle piracy. Transparent statistics from an independent, non-political, international organization can act as a catalyst to achieve this goal.

PIRACY NEWS

Warning issued by IMB PRC for Nigeria and Benin

The IMB PRC has issued a warning for Nigeria and Benin in view of the significant increase in incidents within a short period of time.

On average, three vessels were attacked every two weeks in and off Nigeria. In all cases the pirates were well armed and violent. Some vessels were fired upon. In a few incidents, crews retreated to the citadel and later re-emerged after an intervention by the Nigerian Navy.

In Benin, ships at anchor were boarded. The reported incidents involved the use of automatic weapons with injuries being reported. The intentions of the criminals / hijackers involved, damaging all communication equipment, sailing the ship to the open seas and then stealing the cargo. Reports suggest that ransoms were demanded for the release of the vessel and the kidnapped crews.

The increase in the number of incidents and the violence to crews is a cause of concern. The IMB PRC is warning ships to be vigilant and adhere to the industry and IMO recommendations on anti-piracy. As far as possible ships should try to berth directly. If required to drift, vessels should consider drifting around 250nm from the Benin and Nigerian coasts.

Counter-Piracy Operations off the Coast of Somalia

The EU NAVFOR and the Combined Task Force-151 (CTF-151) have conducted focused counter-piracy operations to understand and identify patterns of life in the waters around the Somalia and across the Gulf of Aden. Military personnel and significant resources in terms of warships, helicopters and aircraft were deployed by EU NAVFOR and CTF-151 during the operation carried out between 29 January and 2 February 2018.

Even though the naval operations in the region have reduced the opportunity for the Somali pirate to carry out attacks on merchant and fishing vessels the threat still exists.

All merchant and fishing vessels are encouraged to continue to adhere to the recommendations and guidelines in the Best Management Practices (BMP4). This will not only allow for the ships to maintain their own high security readiness it would also allow any suspicious activity to be reported to the navies.

As part of the Seychelles Prosecution Pathway programme personnel from EU NAVFOR and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have engaged with law enforcement agencies at the REFLECS3 (Regional Fusion and Law Enforcement Centre for Safety and Security at Sea), Seychelles to conduct training designed to ensure the continued improvement and development of all areas within the justice system. The programme also dealt with the procedures while dealing with media, evidence collection, crime scene management and the transfer of suspected pirates.

Incidents update on collaboration between Indonesia Marine Police (IMP) and IMB on safe designated areas

All ships intending to anchor, drifting or waiting for a berth should do so at the below designated areas where the Indonesian Marine Police patrol boats are stationed to enable the IMP to maximize their resources to provide greater protection to ships.

Merchant ships are advised to cooperate by maintaining strict anti-piracy and robbery watches and report all attacks and suspicious sightings to the local Authorities / IMP and to the IMB PRC who would also liaise with local and regional Authorities to render necessary assistance.

Incidents reported at the 10 designated areas where IMP patrols boats are stationed are as follows:

	Locations	2014 Year Total	2015 Year Total	2016 Year Total	2017 Year Total	2018 First Quarter
1	Belawan 03:55.00N - 098:45.30E	9	15	1	1	
2	Dumai / Lubuk Gaung 01:42.00N - 101:28.00E	1	5	8	5	
3	Nipah 01:07.30N - 103:37.00E	-	26	-	2	
4	Tanjung Berakit / Bintan Island 01:21.00N - 104:29.00E	35	1	1	8	1
5	Tanjung Priok /Jakarta 6:00.30S - 106:54.00E	9	4	6	1	1
6	Gresik 07:09.00S - 112:40.00E	1	-	-	-	
7	Taboneo 03:41.30S - 114:28.00E	2	4	3	1	1
8	Adang Bay 01:40.00S - 116:40.00E	-	-	-	-	
9	Muara Berau 00:17.00S - 117:36.00E	6	1	5	7	5
10	Balikpapan 01:22.00S - 116:53.00E	1	-	2	-	

NARRATIONS OF ATTACKS

1 January – 31 March 2018

ACTUAL ATTACKS

SOUTH EAST ASIA (EXCLUDING MALACCA STRAITS)

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	01.01.2018 0300 LT Anchored Boarded	Polar Ecuador Container Liberia 43628 9786774	14:33.5N – 120:54.7E, Manila South Harbour Anchorage, Philippines	Around seven robbers boarded an anchored ship, stole ship's properties and escaped. The Master reported the incident to the Port Authorities who notified the Coast Guard. A patrol boat was dispatched resulting in the robbers being apprehended and the stolen properties recovered.
2.	03.01.2018 2158 UTC Anchored Boarded	Name Withheld Tanker Singapore 30965 -	01:33.1N – 104:47.0E, Around 22nm NNE of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia	While at anchor, duty watchkeeper spotted five robbers boarding the ship from the stern. Alarm raised and crew proceeded to the citadel. Later, a search was carried out and no robbers were found onboard. Nothing reported stolen.
3.	20.01.2018 2135 UTC Anchored Boarded	Athos Bulk Carrier Barbados 32478 9761334	00:15.8S – 117:35.3E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda, Indonesia	Two robbers boarded an anchored ship, stole ship's properties and escaped. The theft was noticed by crew on routine rounds. Port control informed.
4.	18.02.2018 1900 UTC Anchored Boarded	Name Withheld Tug Norway 7473 -	01:09.7N – 103:56.4E, Around 3nm West of Batu Ampar Port, Batam, Indonesia	During routine rounds onboard an anchored offshore tug, the bosun reported the lock to the engine room hatch broken. Investigations revealed several foot prints on the aft deck and a large number of spare parts missing.
5.	03.03.2018 1545 UTC Anchored Boarded	Alerce N Bulk Carrier Chile 17979 9250323	06:02.9S – 106:53.4E, Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Jakarta, Indonesia	Duty Motorman onboard an anchored ship noticed two robbers on the aft deck and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped in a waiting boat. On searching the ship nothing reported stolen.
6.	07.03.2018 2110 UTC Anchored Boarded	La Solognais Bulk Carrier Malta 24725 9733258	00:15.1S – 117:37.7E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda, Indonesia	Unnoticed robbers boarded an anchored ship, stole two mooring ropes and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds.
7.	20.03.2018 1530 UTC Anchored Boarded	GH Rich Wall Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 36291 9735804	03:42.6S – 114:28.2E, Taboneo Anchorage, Indonesia	Around six robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored ship. Duty crew noticed the robbers and informed the D/O. Alarm raised, crew mustered and port control notified. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty handed.
8.	27.03.2018 2230 UTC	Captain Vangelis L Bulk Carrier	00:16.5S – 117:41.5E,	Four robbers in a small boat approached an anchored ship. Two robbers boarded

	Anchored Boarded	Liberia 88420 9450868	Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda, Indonesia	while the remaining two stayed in the boat. Duty crew on routine rounds noticed the robbers and immediately raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty handed.
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EAST ASIA

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/ IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	01.01.2018 0030 UTC Anchored Boarded	Alentejo Bulk Carrier Singapore 24166 9626118	20:57.08N – 107:19.33E, Cam Pha Loading Anchorage, Vietnam	A robber boarded an anchored ship during cargo operations and escaped with stolen ship's properties. The theft was noticed by crew during routine rounds.
2.	31.01.2018 1910 UTC Anchored Boarded	Globe Explorer Bulk Carrier Panama 17027 9675561	10:39.0N – 107:00.9E, Godau Port, Vietnam	Two robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored ship. They took hostage the Bosun, threatened and injured him with a knife and then tied him up. The Bosun managed to free himself and informed the Master who then raised the alarm and crew mustered. A search was carried out and ship's stores were reported missing. Incident reported to Port Authorities who boarded the ship for investigation. The Bosun was sent ashore for medical treatment.

INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/ IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	07.01.2018 0738 UTC Steaming Boarded	ASL Scorpio Tug Singapore 1730 9422952 Ship Ocean I Chemical Tanker Tuvalu 19081 8916243	21:12.60N – 072:12.79E, 11nm South of Alang, Gujarat, India	Three robbers boarded a tanker under tow by a tug. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped with ship's stores and engine spares. Incident was reported to Indian Coast Guard. The three robbers were later arrested by the marine police and the stolen items recovered.
2.	26.01.2018 2200 UTC Anchored Boarded	Baltic Panther Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 31117 9387346	22:10N – 091:42E, Chittagong B Anchorage, Bangladesh	During routine rounds, duty AB found three lub-oil drums on deck and suspecting something amiss, informed the D/O who alerted the Master and Chief Engineer. On investigating the shore watchmen admitted to have drained the lub-oil from the anchor windlass feed tank into the drums. Local agents informed.

3.	30.01.2018 2200 UTC Anchored Boarded	Port Hainan Bulk Carrier Hong Kong 33036 9456422	21:48N – 091:48E, Kutubdia Anchorage, Bangladesh	Five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored ship. They threatened the Duty AB, who managed to escape and raise the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to Bangladesh Coast Guard who boarded the ship for investigation. Later, the Coast Guard managed to recover the stolen stores and delivered them to the ship.
4.	06.02.2018 1715 UTC Anchored Boarded	BBC Amber General Cargo Antigua and Barbuda 12838 9563706	22:08.6N – 091:44.0E, Chittagong Anchorage C, Bangladesh	Four robbers armed with guns boarded an anchored ship and threatened the duty watchman who managed to escape. Alarm raised, PA announcement made and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. Incident reported to the Coast Guard.

AMERICAS

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/ IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	11.01.2018 0800 UTC Anchored Boarded	Name Withheld Asphalt Tanker Marshall Islands 6457 -	18:34.34N – 072:22.87W, Port Au Prince Anchorage, Haiti	Unnoticed a robber boarded an anchored tanker, stole ship's properties and escaped. The theft was discovered by duty crew during routine rounds.
2.	27.01.2018 0550 UTC Anchored Boarded	CMB Yasmine Bulk Carrier Hong Kong 23432 9474242	12:01.67S – 077:12.10W, Callao Anchorage, Peru	Three robbers armed with knives in a boat boarded an anchored ship. They tied up one crew in the forward store. Alarm raised and crew mustered. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores and crew personal belongings. A search was carried out. Incident reported to Port Authorities and the local agents.
3.	27.01.2018 1255 UTC Anchored Boarded	Silver Ervilia Product Tanker Marshall Islands 29375 9718404	18:34N – 072:24W, Port Au Prince Inner Anchorage, Haiti	Unnoticed robbers boarded an anchored tanker, stole two mooring ropes and a messenger rope and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds. Local Authorities notified.
4.	31.01.2018 0050 UTC Anchored Boarded	Stenaweco Caterina Corrado Chemical Tanker Bahamas 29846 9688427	10:16.5N – 064:42.3W, Puerto La Cruz Anchorage, Venezuela	Seven robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored tanker and took hostage the duty AB on routine rounds. They threatened him with a knife, tied him up to the windlass rail and stole his safety shoes and portable UHF radio. Another crew near the accommodation noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Crew mustered and a search was carried out and the duty AB was released. The paint store was found broken into and ship's stores stolen. Attempts to contact the port control were futile.

5.	06.02.2018 0212 UTC Anchored Boarded	Emerald Spirit Tanker Bahamas 60185 9422005	10:10.6N – 064:47.7W, Puerto Jose Anchorage, Venezuela	Four robbers boarded an anchored tanker. Duty AB on routine rounds noticed the robbers and immediately notified the D/O, who raised the alarm and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped in a small boat with stolen ship's properties. Incident reported to Port Authorities.
6.	15.02.2018 0112 UTC Anchored Boarded	Rio Apure Tanker Marshall Islands 81384 9589748	10:14.2N – 064:44.2W, Puerto La Cruz Anchorage, Venezuela	Three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored tanker. Duty AB on routine rounds saw the robbers and notified the D/O. The robbers threatened the AB. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. Incident reported to the Puerto La Cruz VTS. A Coast Guard patrol boat was dispatched to investigate.
7.	15.02.2018 0525 UTC Anchored Boarded	Name Withheld Bulk Carrier Liberia 44200 -	Macapa Anchorage, Brazil	The D/O onboard an anchored ship noticed the forecandle door open and robbers on the forward deck. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped. On searching the ship, ship's stores were reported stolen. Port Authority notified via local agent.
8.	22.02.2018 0525 UTC Anchored Boarded	Maersk Maya Product Tanker Singapore 26900 9367750	18:34.15N – 072:24.29W, Port Au Prince 'H' Anchorage, Haiti	Duty AB on routine rounds onboard an anchored tanker noticed robbers armed with guns on the forecandle deck. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, one of the robbers fired a warning shot and escaped. Crew and the tanker reported safe. Incident reported to Port Authorities.
9.	25.02.2018 0842 UTC Anchored Boarded	Celina Star Container Liberia 37113 9210086	02:21.3S – 079:59.7W, Guayaquil Inner Anchorage, Ecuador	Duty AB on routine rounds onboard an anchored ship was confronted by five robbers on the aft deck. One robber, with a gun was seen near the entrance to the steering gear room. The AB immediately retreated and informed the Duty Officer. Alarm raised and port control notified. A coast guard boat was sent to the ship. All crew safe. Nothing reported stolen.
10.	15.03.2018 0530 UTC Anchored Boarded	Eco Splendor Bulk Carrier Hong Kong 23749 9659189	12:01.8S – 077:11.2W, Callao Anchorage, Peru	Four robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored ship. Alarm raised and crew mustered. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. A search was carried out. Incident reported to the local agents.
11.	24.03.2018 0142 UTC Anchored Boarded	Silver Point Product Tanker Malta 29717 9510462	10:17.0N – 064:42.5W, Puerto La Cruz Anchorage, Venezuela	Robbers armed with guns boarded an anchored tanker. Duty crew on routine rounds noticed the robbers on the forecandle deck and immediately raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, two robbers were seen escaping. On conducting a search, the forecandle store padlock was reported broken and ship's properties stolen. Port Control notified via Vhf Ch. 16/13. The Coast Guard later dispatched a vessel to search the anchorage waters around the vessel.

AFRICA (EXCLUDING SOMALIA / GULF OF ADEN / RED SEA)

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	05.01.2018 0615 UTC Anchored Boarded	Meridian Express Product Tanker Panama 29289 9596272	06:17.8N – 003:19.7E, Around 6.24nm South of Lagos, Nigeria	Duty crew onboard a tanker carrying out STS operations spotted two robbers near the forecandle. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed. Incident reported to the Nigerian Navy.
2.	08.01.2018 2305 UTC Anchored Boarded	Mount Express Oil/Chemical Tanker Liberia 23313 9470985	06:19.1N – 003:20.3E, Around 5.6nm SW of Lagos, Nigeria	Two robbers boarded an anchored tanker engaged in STS operations. Upon being noticed by the crew, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped. On searching the tanker, the crew found a hose near a cargo oil tank and concluded that the robbers had boarded to steal cargo. Incident reported to the naval patrol boat. All crew are safe. No cargo reported stolen.
3.	10.01.2018 - Anchored Hijacked	Barrett Product Tanker Marshall Islands 8482 9351749	Cotonou Anchorage, Benin	The Owners of an anchored tanker informed the IMB PRC that they had lost communications with their tanker. The IMB PRC notified the Nigerian and Benin navies. A search was carried out. On 16 January 2018, owners reported that the tanker and her crew arrived safely in Lagos, Nigeria after successful negotiations with the hijackers.
4.	27.01.2018 0001 UTC Anchored Boarded	Atlantic Crown Product Tanker Hong Kong 29266 9332169	06:18.23N – 003:20.11E, Lagos STS Anchorage, Nigeria	Duty AB onboard an anchored tanker noticed some suspicious movement on the forecandle and immediately informed the D/O who noticed a person hiding behind the mooring winches. Alarm raised, PA announcement made, ship's horn continuously blown, crew mustered and a Nigerian Navy patrol boat notified. The patrol boat arrived and searched the waters around the tanker. Crew searched the tanker. Nothing reported stolen.
5.	31.01.2018 2206 UTC Anchored Boarded	Jennings Bay Chemical Tanker Marshall Islands 29735 9717773	Lagos Anchorage, Nigeria	Duty AB on routine rounds onboard an anchored tanker noticed two small boats tied up to the anchor chain and one robber on the forecandle deck. D/O notified. Alarm raised and fog horn sounded. Seeing the alerted crew, the robber escaped. Nigerian Navy patrol boat notified. The patrol boat arrived and searched the waters around the tanker. Nothing reported stolen.
6.	01.02.2018 0748 UTC Anchored Hijacked	Marine Express Product Tanker Panama 28054 9403322	06:16N – 002:31E, Cotonou Anchorage, Benin	The IMB PRC received a missing vessel report from the Owners of an anchored tanker awaiting berthing instruction. The Owners reported that they had lost contact with their tanker laden with gasoline. The IMB PRC

				immediately notified all the Regional Authorities and the international warships in the Gulf of Guinea. A search was carried out. The IMB PRC broadcast a message to all ships in the region to look out for the missing tanker. On 06 Feb 2018, the Owners confirmed that the tanker was released. The crew and cargo safe.
7.	09.02.2018 0600 UTC Steaming Boarded	Sierra Leyre Refrigerated Cargo Ship Bahamas 5100 9135822	03:40N – 006:45E, Around 48nm SSW of Bonny Island, Nigeria	Heavily armed pirates attacked, fired upon and boarded the ship underway. A crew member was injured due to the firing. The pirates kidnapped four crew members, stole ship's property and cash and escaped. The remaining crew sailed the ship to open seas. On 27 Feb 2018, the four kidnapped crew members were released.
8.	09.02.2018 1245 UTC Not Stated Boarded	Luwen-Yu 2 Fishing Vessel China - -	04:06.0N – 008:51.0E, Around 10nm SW of Idenao, Cameroon	Persons armed with AK47 assault rifles boarded the fishing vessel, kidnapped three crew members and escaped. Cameroonian Authorities notified.
9.	17.02.2018 2250 UTC Anchored Boarded	Sea Emperor Product Tanker Marshall Islands 8503 9383601	06:17.9N – 002:30.3E, Cotonou Anchorage, Benin	D/O onboard an anchored tanker noticed three armed persons on deck and immediately raised the alarm. SSAS activated and all crew retreated to the citadel. The CSO notified the IMB PRC who immediately informed the Benin Authorities. Three patrol boats were dispatched to the location. They searched the waters around the tanker. A navy team boarded the tanker. On confirmation from the navy team that the tanker was clear of pirates, the Master and crew emerged from the citadel. On investigating, the ship's office port hole was damaged due to a gunshot and other ship's property found damaged.
10.	20.02.2018 0145 UTC Anchored Boarded	Green Sky Product Tanker Liberia 30263 9676515	06:17N – 003:13E, Lagos Anchorage, Nigeria	Duty AB onboard an anchored tanker noticed six robbers boarding and notified the D/O. Master informed, ship's horn sounded, alarm raised and crew mustered in the citadel. The onboard Safety Advisor established communication with the Nigerian Navy patrol boat in the secure anchorage area and requested for immediate assistance. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in their small black skiff. The patrol boat proceeded towards the tanker and tried to chase the speed boat. The crew emerged from the citadel. Upon investigation, the ullage caps of some oil tanks were found opened. Nothing reported stolen.
11.	26.02.2018 2330 UTC Anchored	ST Marseille Product Tanker Luxembourg	06:16.31N – 002:29.24E,	Five armed persons approached an anchored tanker in a speed boat. As they boarded the tanker, they

	Boarded	5218 9367358	Cotonou Anchorage, Benin	commenced firing and injured one of the Benin navy guards onboard the tanker. All crew except the D/O on the bridge retreated into the citadel. As the armed persons made their way to the bridge, they fired upon and injured another Navy Guard. They took hostage the D/O and demanded that the Master, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer come to the bridge. The armed persons then instructed the Master to heave up anchor but when they were told that the tanker was in ballast, they stole crew properties, kidnapped the Master and one engineer and escaped using the rescue boat. The Benin Navy was notified to medivac the injured guards. Once the armed persons were safely ashore they released the Master and engineer who made contact with the local police and later re-joined their tanker.
12.	06.03.2018 1000 UTC Steaming Boarded	Scot Munchen Product Tanker Malta 5145 9255816	04:05N – 006:57E, Around 21nm SW of Bonny Island, Nigeria	Pirates, armed with guns, boarded the tanker approaching Bonny Fairway Buoy. Alarm raised, SSAS activated and all crew mustered in the citadel. Nigerian Navy notified and patrol boats were immediately deployed to assist the tanker. As all crew were secure in the citadel, the pirates were unable to take any hostages. Before escaping they damaged some navigation and communication equipment. Later, the Master and crew emerged from the citadel and took back control of their tanker and sailed to a safe port. All crew safe.
13.	16.03.2018 0800 UTC Steaming Boarded	MSC Maria General Cargo Panama 8721 9067544	03:57.0N – 006:42.5E, Around 36nm SW of Bonny Island, Nigeria	Armed pirates attacked and boarded the ship underway. Alarm raised and all crew retreated into the citadel. The Owners contacted the IMB PRC and requested for assistance. The Centre immediately informed the Nigerian Navy who dispatched patrol boats to assist the ship. The IMB PRC liaised with the Owners and the Navy on the incident. The Naval personnel boarded the ship. No pirates found onboard. The crew emerged from the citadel and sailed the ship to a safe port under Naval escort.
14.	16.03.2018 2240 UTC Anchored Boarded	Dong-A Krios Product Tanker Panama 28160 9694191	06:17.8N – 003:25.1E, Around 13.55nm SSE of Lagos, Nigeria	Armed guards onboard an anchored tanker noticed three unauthorised persons onboard the tanker and fired a warning shot. One person managed to escape in a small boat while the remaining two were captured and handed over to Nigerian Navy.
15.	22.03.2018 0115 UTC Anchored	Isleman Refrigerated Cargo Ship	06:15.4N – 002:30.5E,	Eight persons in a small boat, armed with guns and knives boarded an anchored reefer ship. They demanded

	Boarded	Panama 4579 8814902	Around 7.5nm SE of Cotonou, Benin	the crew start the main engine and sail. As the engines were unable to start, they stole crew and ship's property and escaped. Incident reported to Benin Navy who dispatched a naval vessel to investigate.
16.	22.03.2018 1000 UTC Anchored Hijacked	Luronyuanyu 216 Fishing Vessel China - -	06:01.0N – 003:12.0E, Around 30nm SSE of Badagry, Nigeria	Pirates in a speed boat hijacked the fishing boat and forced it to sail into Benin waters. They kidnapped two crew members before releasing the fishing boat.
17.	26.03.2018 1720 UTC Steaming Hijacked	Name Withheld Fishing Vessel Ghana 454 -	05:20.0N – 000:51.4E, Around 27nm South of Anloga, Ghana	Armed pirates attacked and hijacked the fishing vessel underway. The Owners reported the incident to the IMB PRC who immediately contacted and liaised with the Ghana Navy Ops Centre. As the fishing vessel moved from Ghanaian waters into Togo and Benin waters the PRC continually updated the respective naval authorities. Naval boats were deployed by the respective navies within their waters to look for the fishing vessel. On 28 Mar 2018, the Owners confirmed that the fishing vessel had been released. Three crew members were reported missing. All navies were informed accordingly.
18.	28.03.2018 0400 UTC Berthed Boarded	Lafayette Bay Product Tanker Marshall Islands 29735 9717785	MRS Terminal, ALPHA-Jetty, Lagos Port, Nigeria	Two robbers boarded the berthed tanker. Duty watchman spotted the robbers hiding near a forward cargo tank dome with a flexible hose. D/O notified. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped. Two skiffs with eight robbers were seen moving away from the tanker. The Terminal Watchman and Jetty Duty Officer immediately boarded and searched the tanker. Nothing reported stolen.

ATTEMPTED ATTACKS

1 January – 31 March 2018

SOUTH EAST ASIA (EXCLUDING MALACCA STRAITS)

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	03.01.2018 0600 UTC Steaming Attempted	Tiberius Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 21163 9665841	02:27.4N – 101:39.11E, Around 9nm WSW of Port Dickson, Malaysia	D/O noticed a speed boat with five masked persons, holding a long hook, approaching the ship. Alarm raised and crew mustered with fire hoses. Seeing the crew alertness, the speed boat moved away.
2.	05.01.2018 1830 UTC	Asali Bulk Carrier	00:16.22S – 117:36.11E,	Five robbers in a small boat approached an anchored ship and attempted to board

	Anchored Attempted	Cyprus 33338 9461805	Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda, Indonesia	via the anchor chain. Alert duty crew noticed the robbers and shouted at them resulting in the robbers retreating and moving away.
3.	08.01.2018 2300 UTC Anchored Attempted	Name Withheld Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 33032 -	00:16.15S – 117:43.01E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda, Indonesia	Ship's crew noticed robbers attempting to board the ship via the anchor chain and informed the D/O who sounded the fog horn. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers aborted the attempt and escaped in a small boat.
4.	16.02.2018 Night hours Steaming Fired upon	Kudos 1 General Cargo Philippines 499 9133044	06:44.21N – 122:23.50E, Off Sibago Island, Philippines	Armed persons in a boat approached the ship underway. Alarm raised and distress calls broadcast. The Philippines Coast Guard (PCG) immediately responded by dispatching its patrol boats. As the armed persons attempted to board the ship, the crew poured hot water on the perpetrators who fired upon the ship, injuring one crew, before aborting the attack. The PCG boarding team provided medical assistance to the injured crew.

EAST ASIA

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	17.03.2018 1640 UTC Anchored Attempted	Helen N Bulk Carrier Liberia 151448 9479163	38:51.2N – 118:36.6E, Caofeidian Anchorage, China	Three robbers, in a small boat, approached an anchored ship and attempted to board using ropes attached with hooks. The crew noticed the robbers, informed the Master and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and escaped empty handed.
2.	24.03.2018 1515 UTC Anchored Attempted	Berge Atlas Bulk Carrier Panama 90092 9439113	38:43.9N – 118:32.6E, Caofeidian Anchorage, China	Two robbers in a wooden boat came alongside an anchored ship. Duty crew noticed the robbers attempting to board the ship using a ladder and immediately informed the D/O who raised the alarm. Crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers fled.

INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	09.02.2018 1930 UTC Anchored Attempted	Team Challenge Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 17679 9282780	22:11.56N – 088:09.59E, Diamond Harbour Anchorage, Kolkata, India	Duty AB on routine rounds onboard an anchored ship heard an unusual sound coming from the anchor chain. Upon checking, he noticed one robber climbing the anchor chain. He also saw two more persons waiting in a small boat. The duty AB shouted at the robber resulting in the robber escaping.

2.	11.02.2018 2120 UTC Anchored Attempted	Tiberius Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 21163 9665841	22:07.70N – 091:43.41E, Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh	Five robbers in a small boat, armed with knives attempted to board an anchored ship using ropes attached with hooks. The crew noticed the robbers, notified the Master and prepared the fire hoses to stop the robbers. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty handed.
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AMERICAS

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/ IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	03.01.2018 0700 UTC Anchored Attempted	Nestor I Bulk Carrier Liberia 20969 9599016	10:12N – 064:51W, Puerto Jose Anchorage, Venezuela	Five robbers in a small boat, armed with knives attempted to board an anchored ship via the anchor chain. Duty AB noticed the robbers and reported to D/O, who raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers abort the attempted boarding and escaped. Master contacted port control but did not receive a reply.

AFRICA (SOMALIA/GULF OF ADEN)

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/ IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	22.02.2018 2030 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Leopard Sun Product Tanker Singapore 29939 9635781	03:28.1N – 050:27.8E, Around 315nm ENE of Mogadishu, Somalia	Two skiffs chased and fired upon the tanker underway. Alarm raised and crew mustered. The tanker increased speed and the armed guards onboard the tanker returned fire resulting in the pirates aborting the attack.
2.	31.03.2018 0520 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Kriti Spirit Tanker Liberia 83724 9207027	13:58.1N – 051:25.3E, Gulf of Aden	Two skiffs with two armed pirates in each skiff chased the tanker underway. Alarm raised and crew mustered. When the skiffs closed to around 100m the pirates fired upon the tanker. The armed guards onboard the tanker returned fire, resulting in the pirates aborting the attack and moving away. All crew safe. Vessel sustained minor damage due to the firing. Ladders sighted in the skiffs.

AFRICA (EXCLUDING SOMALIA / GULF OF ADEN / RED SEA)

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/ IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	15.01.2018 0300 UTC Anchored Attempted	Seaways Ariadmar Products Tanker Marshall Islands	06:18.05N – 003:23.61E, Lagos Outer Anchorage, Nigeria	Ship's crew preparing for STS cargo operations onboard an anchored tanker noticed robbers attempting to board the and informed the D/O who raised the alarm. All crew mustered on the bridge. Ship's whistle continuously sounded,

		30018 9273624		and search lights directed towards the robbers. Crew secured all access to the accommodation. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers aborted the boarding and moved away.
2.	23.01.2018 0530 UTC Berthed Attempted	Konrad Schulte Container Cyprus 18334 9292125	09:30N –013:43W, Conakry Port Terminal, Guinea	Crew on routine rounds onboard an anchored ship noticed two persons attempting to climb onboard using the ship's line. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the intruders aborted and moved away.
3.	24.01.2018 0515 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Thor Infinity Bulk Carrier Singapore 30303 9238466	03:38N – 006:37E, Around 45nm SE of Brass, Nigeria	While underway, two skiffs with two to three armed pirates in each skiff chased and fired upon the ship underway. Ship increased speed, crew mustered in a safe place and the armed guards were on standby. Due to the ship hardening measures the pirates were unable to access the ship and aborted the attempt.
4.	24.01.2018 0900 UTC Steaming Attempted	Ebunola Product Tanker Nigeria 5245 9014511	03:30N – 006:20E, Around 48nm South of Brass, Nigeria	Armed pirates chased and attacked the tanker underway. The presence of armed naval team onboard the tanker resulted in the pirates aborting the attack.
5.	03.02.2018 1639 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Biskra Bitumen Tanker Panama 8744 9030709	03:29.40N – 006:36.42E, Around 60nm SW of Bonny Island, Nigeria	Around 10 to 12 armed pirates in a high-speed boat, chased and fired upon a tanker underway. Alarm raised and non-essential crew retreated to the citadel. Due to the Master's evasive manoeuvres and the presence of the onboard Naval armed team the pirates aborted and moved away. Incident was reported to Nigerian navy. All crew was safe.
6.	15.02.2018 1850 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Lutetia Container Liberia 35881 9246695	03:42.59N – 007:05.59E, Around 40.62nm SSW of Bonny, Nigeria	Four pirates in a speed boat chased and fired upon the ship underway. Master increased speed and started evasive manoeuvres. Due to the presence of a Nigerian Naval escort boat the pirates aborted and moved away. Crew and ship reported safe.
7.	18.02.2018 1845 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Belema Light Crude Tanker Panama 156809 9079066	03:41.5N – 006:37.5E, Around 42nm SE of Brass, Nigeria	A speed boat with six to seven armed pirates chased and fired upon the tanker underway. Alarm raised, crew mustered, evasive manoeuvres started and Nigerian authorities contacted. Due to the tanker's hardening measures the pirates were unable to board and moved away. The tanker was escorted to Bonny anchorage by two Navy vessels. All crew safe. The tanker sustained minor damage due to being fired upon.
8.	19.02.2018 0824 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Interim Tanker Panama 25060 9039121	04:02.66N – 006:34.33E, Around 25nm SE of Brass, Nigeria	Six pirates armed with guns in a black hull speed boat approached and tried to board the tanker underway. Master raised the alarm, activated SSAS, transmitted distress message, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and crew secured all access doors. The pirates made several attempts to hook an aluminium ladder on the tanker's

				railing but were unsuccessful due to the evasive manoeuvres. They then fired at the tanker and moved away. A Nigerian Navy boat was in contact with the tanker and arrived at the location.
9.	24.02.2018 1016 UTC Steaming Attempted	Kota Sahabat Container Singapore 41567 9645463	03:33.8N – 007:02.7E, Around 50nm SSW of Bonny Island, Nigeria	Around eight armed pirates in a speed boat chased the ship underway. Alarm raised, SSAS activated, speed increased and all non-essential crew retreated to the citadel. Nigerian navy contacted, who informed the Master to rendezvous with their naval vessel in the vicinity. As the pirate boat closed in the Master commenced evasive manoeuvres. Due to the hardening measures, the pirates were unable to hook their ladder onto the ship and moved away.
10.	24.02.2018 1520 UTC Steaming Fired upon	China Frost Refrigerated Cargo Ship Cook Islands 4999 8410914	03:38.1N – 006:42.0E, Around 40nm SSW of Bonny Fairway Buoy, Nigeria	Around 10 pirates in a speed boat, armed with automatic weapons, chased and fired upon the ship underway. The armed guards onboard the ship returned fire, resulting in the pirates aborting the attack and moving away. All crew safe. The ship sustained minor damage due to the firing.
11.	16.03.2018 0810 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Biskra Product Tanker Panama 8744 9030709	03:57.31N – 006:52.39E, Around 29nm SW of Bonny Island, Nigeria	Eight armed pirates in a small high-speed boat approached and fired upon the tanker underway. Master notified the onboard naval armed team, commenced evasive manoeuvres and all non-essential crew retreated to the citadel. Seeing the tanker hardening the pirates aborted and moved away. Nigerian Navy notified.
12.	22.03.2018 2129 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Name Withheld Tanker Liberia 29335 -	03:35.0N – 006:44.0E, Around 53nm SW of Bonny Island, Nigeria	Pirates in a small speed boat chased and fired upon the tanker underway. Alarm raised and crew mustered. The armed guards onboard returned fire resulting in the pirates aborting the attack. All crew safe.



IMB Piracy Report – January to March 2018

 = Attempted Attack  = Boarded  = Fired upon  = Hijacked  = Suspicious vessel



Total number of attacks - 66



IMB Piracy Report – January to March 2018

 = Attempted Attack  = Boarded  = Fired upon  = Hijacked  = Suspicious vessel



Total attacks Indian Sub-Continent – 6

Total attacks East & SE Asia – 16



IMB Piracy Report – January to March 2018

 = Attempted Attack  = Boarded  = Fired upon  = Hijacked  = Suspicious vessel



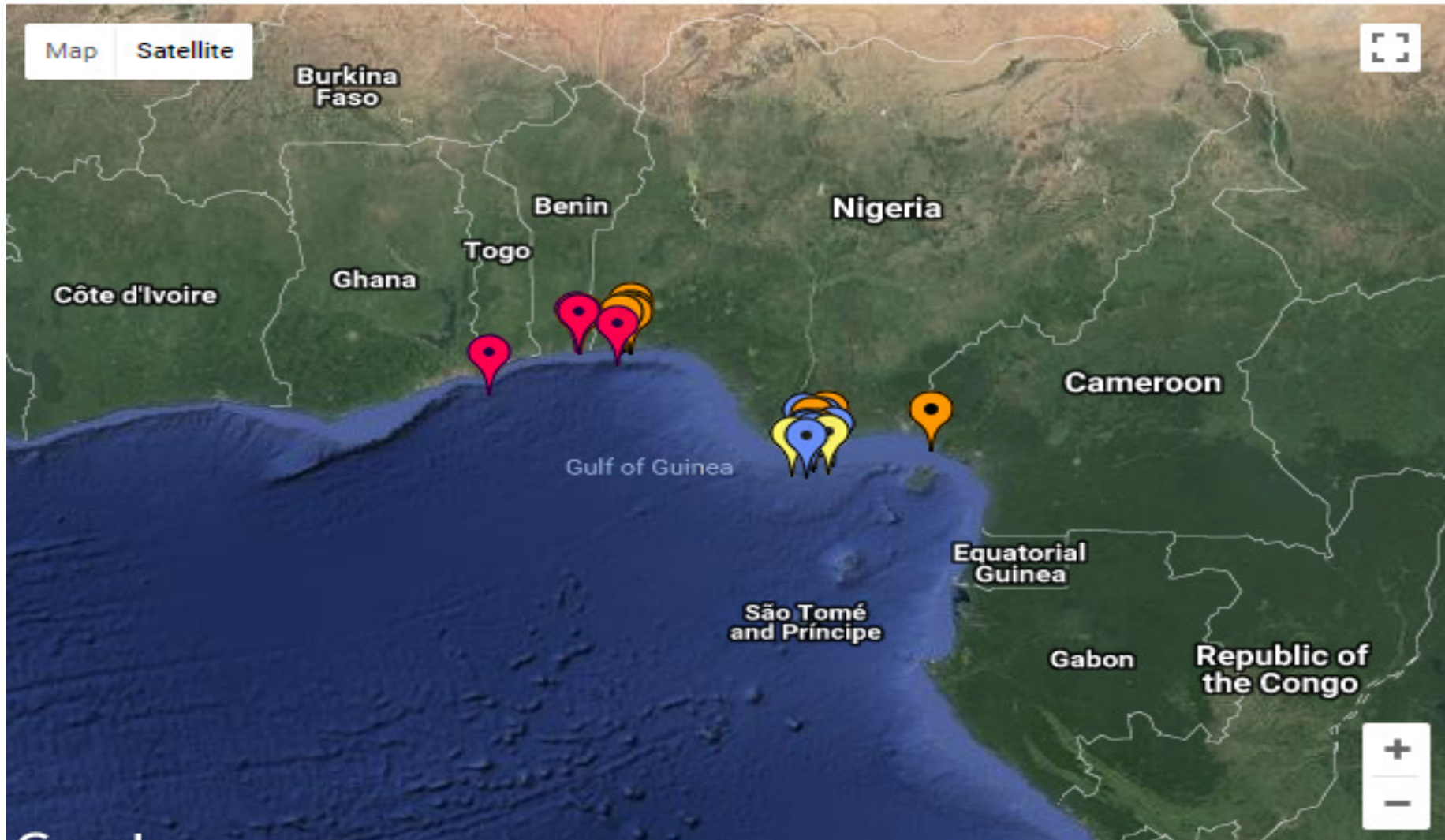
Total attacks Red Sea / Gulf of Aden – 1

Total attacks east coast Somalia / Arabian Sea – 1



IMB Piracy Report – January to March 2018

 = Attempted Attack  = Boarded  = Fired upon  = Hijacked  = Suspicious vessel



Total attacks Gulf of Guinea - 29